

REGISTER YOUR CELL PHONE FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

PHOENIX (August 23, 2010) — When emergencies happen in your neighborhood, public safety agencies can use the 9-1-1 database to call your home to let you know the nature of the emergency and what to do. But what happens if you don't have a home telephone and only have cell phone service? Now, thanks to a regional investment in a new software system, you can register your cell phone or voice-over IP (VoIP) systems to receive such emergency notifications.

The Community Emergency Notification System (CENS), also known as Reverse 9-1-1, is a rapid emergency notification system that was launched in the Maricopa Region in January 2004. The system contacts the public by telephone during times of emergency informing them in English, Spanish and TTY of the nature of the emergency and what steps they need to take to address the emergency. CENS has been used for both law enforcement and fire related emergencies. Any emergency agency in the Maricopa Region has access to CENS, but it can only be activated for defined emergency incidents. Potential uses could include emergencies such as major fires, public safety threats, flash floods, hazardous materials spills, police incidents, and endangered children or elderly persons.

Residents wishing to self-register their cell phones or VoIP phones in the CENS program must do so through the self registration link on the website at

www.maricoparegion911.org/CENS.htm